

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT

To: Interested Parties

From: FWP Wolf Program Coordinator, Carolyn Sime (406-461-0587)

Subject: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information, June 19 – June 25, 2010

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf – livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available on each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

NOTE: FWP has recently redesigned and reorganized its Website. The Wolf Program Home Page can be found at <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>. If you get an error page, go to the FWP Home page and look for Montana Wolves under Fish & Wildlife.

Wolf Monitoring Activities

On 6/1 new volunteer Johna Schneider began work for this field season in region 1. Welcome Johna!

On 6/5 Laudon, Boyd, and Schneider began trapping to collar wolves in the Dutch pack. On 6/7, 2 yearling females in the Dutch pack were caught. Trapping efforts began later that day for the Kintla pack but were unsuccessful and traps were pulled on 6/18.

On 6/9 and 6/11 John Vore conducted regular wolf monitoring flights. Four pups were observed in the Cilly pack indicating that they have survived after the breeding female was hit and killed by a vehicle on 5/25.

Bradley and crew has wrapped up trapping efforts in the Blackfoot and will be focusing on trapping at the south end of the Bitterroot (Sula area).

On 6/24 Boyd and Schneider began trapping to collar in the Great Northern pack area. Laudon and Derbridge were scouting for the Smoky pack.

Flights: Vore flew in NWMT on 6/9 and 6/11. Bradley flew in western MT on 6/23.

Wolf - Livestock Activities

FWP has been working on pulling together a volunteer range rider in the Hall area.

Blackfoot Challenge is funding a range rider again this grazing season. Peter Brown returns this year and started in early May. He has been focusing efforts thus far in the Ovando Mtn territory and has been doing a lot of scouting.

On 6/18, WS removed a black adult female in the Selow pack territory. This is believed to be the last member of this pack. Control is complete unless additional wolves are detected.

On 6/22, WS investigated a report of a calf being killed by wolves south of Wisdom on private land. WS determined that it was unconfirmed as a predator kill, thus was not killed by wolves.

On 6/25, WS confirmed that a wolf or wolves injured a calf on private land south of Wisdom. It is suspected that the Miner Lakes pack is involved. WS efforts to remove this pack have been ongoing since February. The 45-day control period is renewed.

On 6/25, WS removed a female wolf from the Silcox pack. On 6/27 WS removed a male wolf from the Silcox pack. Control efforts are completed.

Outreach and Education

Nothing to report.

Research Activities

Nothing to report.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

On 6/22, an adult gray male from an unknown pack was hit and killed on I-90 between Superior and St Regis. FWP Warden Fegely responded.

Other Updates

Northern Rockies Delisting Litigation in Missoula Federal Court

On 6/15, oral arguments were heard in Missoula Federal Court in the legal challenge of the USFWS decision to delist the wolf throughout the northern Rockies DPS except Wyoming. Oral arguments were presented by plaintiffs' attorneys, the Federal Department of Justice attorney representing USFWS, FWP Chief Counsel Lane, and ID Deputy Attorney General Strack. Judge Molloy said he would issue a decision as soon as possible.

Proposed 2010 Wolf Hunting Season

The public comment period closed June 14. FWP received a significant number of comments. As could be expected, comments were very diverse. FWP and the FWP Commission have been reviewing comments as they have been received. FWP will make recommendations for a final proposed 2010 hunting season (quotas and other regulatory aspects) to the FWP Commission at the July 8 meeting. The FWP Commission is expected to make final decisions that day.

FWP and the FWP Commission will continue the process to finalize parameters of a 2010 hunting season and quotas in individual wolf management units. FWP encourages the public to check the FWP website periodically for updates on the 2010 hunting season, pending a ruling from the Federal Court that could affect the 2010 season.

Montana Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board:

The Prevention Subcommittee of the Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board met on June 4 to begin crafting the Prevention side of the Board's Mission and overall program. Work is ongoing with this effort, a Funding Subcommittee, and a Rules Subcommittee.

The Board's website is www.llrmb.mt.gov. Look under Board and Meetings on the left navigation bar. Agendas and minutes from previous meetings are available at [Montana Department of Livestock](http://MontanaDepartmentofLivestock). The program coordinator can be reached at 444-5609.

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To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>.

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office: 657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp>. Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 444-5609.

2010-06-25 Montana Wolf Weekly.pdf